SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07, NJ 5/08)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

	· ·
Address of Plaintiff:	115 0122:
Address of Defendant: 1804 Washington Blvd, Balti	incre MD 21230
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side For A	Additional Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation a	•
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))	
(7)	,
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	YesD No.
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	Date Terminated:
Case Number:Judge	Date reminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one ye	ear previously terminated action in this court?
	Yes No C
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior s action in this court?	suit pending or within one year previously terminated
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3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier n	/
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4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right	ts case filed by the same individual?
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NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	ere has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or	within one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	
DATE: 1-10-11 Cruya /hor-Kimmel	57106
Attorney-at-Law)	Attorney I.D.#
CIV. 609 (6/08)	

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

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James Donet V. ALW Sourcing		:		
ALW Sourcing	LLC	: :	NO.	
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(Civ. 660) 10/02

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA 3 JAMES DONCHEZ, 4 Plaintiff 5 Civil Action No.: 6 v. COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY 7 ALW SOURCING LLC, TRIAL 8 Defendant (Unlawful Debt Collection Practices) 9 10 COMPLAINT 11 JAMES DONCHEZ ("Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C., 12 alleges the following against ALW SOURCING LLC: 13 14 INTRODUCTION 15 Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 1. 16 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. ("FDCPA"). 17 18 JURISDICTION AND VENUE 19 2. Jurisdiction of this court arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(d), which states 20. that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court 21 22 without regard to the amount in controversy," and 28 U.S.C. § 1331 grants this court original 23 jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the laws of the United States. 24 Defendant conducts business in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and 3. 25 therefore, personal jurisdiction is established. - 1 -

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- 4. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1).
- 5. Declaratory relief is available pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.

PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
- 7. Plaintiff is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).
- Defendant, ALW Sourcing LLC, is debt collection company, with its main office located at 1804 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland, 21230.
- Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6),
 and sought to collect a consumer debt from Plaintiff.
- 10. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

11. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act ("FDCPA") is a comprehensive statute, which prohibits a catalog of activities in connection with the collection of debts by third parties.

See 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq. The FDCPA imposes civil liability on any person or entity that violates its provisions, and establishes general standards of debt collector conduct, defines abuse, and provides for specific consumer rights. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k. The operative provisions of the FDCPA declare certain rights to be provided to or claimed by debtors, forbid deceitful and misleading practices, prohibit harassing and abusive tactics, and proscribe unfair or unconscionable conduct, both generally and in a specific list of disapproved practices.

- 12. In particular, the FDCPA broadly enumerates several practices considered contrary to its stated purpose, and forbids debt collectors from taking such action. The substantive heart of the FDCPA lies in three broad prohibitions. First, a "debt collector may not engage in any conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, or abuse any person in connection with the collection of a debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692d. Second, a "debt collector may not use any false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. And third, a "debt collector may not use unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt." 15 U.S.C. § 1692f. The FDCPA is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous collectors, whether or not there exists a valid debt, broadly prohibits unfair or unconscionable collection methods, conduct which harasses, oppresses or abuses any debtor, and any false, deceptive or misleading statements in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 13. In enacting the FDCPA, the United States Congress found that "[t]here is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt collection practices by many debt collectors," which "contribute to the number of personal bankruptcies, to marital instability, to the loss of jobs, and to invasions of individual privacy." 15 U.S.C. § 1692a. Congress additionally found existing laws and procedures for redressing debt collection injuries to be inadequate to protect consumers. 15 U.S.C. § 1692b.
- 14. Congress enacted the FDCPA to regulate the collection of consumer debts by debt collectors. The express purposes of the FDCPA are to "eliminate abusive debt collection practices by debt collectors, to insure that debt collectors who refrain from using abusive debt collection practices are not competitively disadvantaged, and to promote consistent State action to protect consumers against debt collection abuses." 15 U.S.C. § 1692e.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. At all pertinent times hereto, Defendant was hired to collect a debt allegedly owed to Capital One.
- 16. The alleged debt at issue arose out of transactions that were primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 17. Beginning in or around May 2010, Defendant began constantly and continuously contacting Plaintiff in an attempt to collect an alleged debt.
- 18. On or about May 19, 2010, at 5:41 p.m., Defendant contacted Plaintiff on his home telephone seeking and demanding payment for an alleged debt.
- 19. Defendant threatened Plaintiff that it would report the alleged debt on his credit report if he did not pay the debt.
- 20. Further, Defendant informed Plaintiff that the debt had to be paid immediately so that Defendant could take the account of its books at the end of the month.
- 21. Alarmed by Defendant's statements and believing that Defendant intended to report this matter on his credit report, Plaintiff provided Defendant his checking account information and authorized a payment on the alleged debt.
- 22. Within five (5) days of its initial communication with Plaintiff, Defendant failed to send Plaintiff written notice advising him of his rights to dispute the alleged debt and/or seek verification of the allege debt.
- 23. Instead, the only written communication Plaintiff received from Defendant was a letter confirming an electronic debit from his checking account for Friday, May 28, 2010.
 - 24. Following his May 19, 2010, telephone call from Defendant and concerned about

having just authorized payment for an unknown debt, Plaintiff did some research and discovered that he might not owe the debt Defendant was attempting to collect from him.

- 25. On or about May 20, 2010, Plaintiff stopped the electronic payment to Defendant and disputed the debt, seeking for Defendant to provide him proof of the alleged debt.
- 26. Then, on May 29, 2010, at 9:16 a.m. Defendant's representative "Ron Jackson" left a message on Plaintiff's home answering machine telling Plaintiff to contact him (Ron Jackson) at "1-888-379-4884," and that there was a "balance of \$2,122.65 due and owing on this account."
- 27. Each time Plaintiff attempted to call the number provided by Defendant's representative, Mr. Jackson, he was unable to speak to any individual, instead only receiving a busy signal.
- 28. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff owed no debt, and if there had been a debt, the amount Defendant was attempting to collect was in excess of the credit limit on the account and any amount actually due and owing.
- 29. To date, Defendant has failed to provide Plaintiff with written correspondence advising him of his right to dispute the debt and/or to request verification of the alleged debt.
- 30. Had Defendant provided an appropriate communication in accordance with 15 U.S.C. §1692g, Plaintiff would have been alerted of his right to validate and question the amount claimed and the legal obligation to do so.
- 31. Moreover, Defendant's statements, threats, and misrepresentations were designed to cause Plaintiff to make a payment on a debt, which, upon information and belief, is uncollectible, as the debt more than 4 years old, making it beyond the applicable statute of limitations.

32. Upon information and belief, Defendant sought to collect a debt from Plaintiff without any reliable proof as its validity.

CONSTRUCTION OF APPLICABLE LAW

- 33. The FDCPA is a strict liability statute. <u>Taylor v. Perrin, Landry, deLaunay & Durand</u>, 103 F.3d 1232 (5th Cir. 1997). "Because the Act imposes strict liability, a consumer need not show intentional conduct by the debt collector to be entitled to damages." <u>Russell v. Equifax A.R.S.</u>, 74 F. 3d 30 (2d Cir. 1996); <u>see also Gearing v. Check Brokerage Corp.</u>, 233 F.3d 469 (7th Cir. 2000) (holding unintentional misrepresentation of debt collector's legal status violated FDCPA); <u>Clomon v. Jackson</u>, 988 F. 2d 1314 (2d Cir. 1993).
- 34. The FDCPA is a remedial statute, and therefore must be construed liberally in favor of the debtor. Sprinkle v. SB&C Ltd., 472 F. Supp. 2d 1235 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The remedial nature of the FDCPA requires that courts interpret it liberally. Clark v. Capital Credit & Collection Services. Inc., 460 F. 3d 1162 (9th Cir. 2006). "Because the FDCPA, like the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) 15 U.S.C §1601 et seq., is a remedial statute, it should be construed liberally in favor of the consumer." Johnson v. Riddle, 305 F. 3d 1107 (10th Cir. 2002).
- 35. The FDCPA is to be interpreted in accordance with the "least sophisticated" consumer standard. See Jeter v. Credit Bureau, Inc., 760 F.2d 1168 (11th Cir. 1985); Graziano v. Harrison, 950 F. 2d 107 (3rd Cir. 1991); Swanson v. Southern Oregon Credit Service, Inc., 869 F.2d 1222 (9th Cir. 1988). The FDCPA was not "made for the protection of experts, but for the public that vast multitude which includes the ignorant, the unthinking, and the credulous, and the fact that a false statement may be obviously false to those who are trained and

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experienced does not change its character, nor take away its power to deceive others less experienced." Id. The least sophisticated consumer standard serves a dual purpose in that it ensures protection of all consumers, even naive and trusting, against deceptive collection practices, and protects collectors against liability for bizarre or idiosyncratic interpretations of collection notices. Clomon, 988 F. 2d at 1318.

COUNT I <u>DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE</u> <u>FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT</u>

- 36. In its actions to collect a disputed debt, Defendant violated the FDCPA in one or more of the following ways:
 - a. Defendant violated the FDCPA generally;
 - b. Harassing, oppressing or abusing Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692d;
 - Using false, deceptive, or misleading representations or means in connection with the collection of any debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692e;
 - d. Misrepresenting the amount of the debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2).
 - e. Threatening to take action that cannot legally be taken or that is not intended to be taken, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5);
 - f. Threatening to communicate to any person credit information which is known or which should be known to be false, including the failure to communicate that a disputed debt is disputed, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(8);

- g. Using any false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect any debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10);
- h. Using unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect any debt, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692f;
- i. The collection of additional amounts not expressly authorized, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692f(1);
- j. Failing to provide to Plaintiff, within five (5) days after the initial communication in connection with the collection of a debt, written notice advising him of his rights to dispute the debt and/or request validation, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692g; and
- k. By acting in an otherwise deceptive, unfair and unconscionable manner and failing to comply with the FDCPA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, JAMES DONCHEZ, respectfully prays for a judgment as follows:

- a. All actual compensatory damages suffered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1);
- b. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation of the FDCPA pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A);
- c. All reasonable attorneys' fees, witness fees, court costs and other litigation costs incurred by Plaintiff pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1693k(a)(3); and
- d. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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nands a jury trial in this

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KIMMEL & SILVERMAN, P.C..

By:_____ Craig Thor Kimmel Attorney ID # 57100

Kimmel & Silverman, P.C.

30 E. Butler Pike Ambler, PA 19002 Phone: (215) 540-8888 Fax: (215) 540-8817

Email: kimmel@creditlaw.com